executed between Ministry of Home Affairs and executing agencies, the agencies are required to execute the work in consultation with the district administration concerned and the Border Security Force. An advisory has been issued to all the agencies to follow the terms of agreement. To ensure the quality of work, a mechanism of third party inspection of works has been put in place.

(f) and (g) Since riverine areas, due to difficulties in terrain and topographical conditions, are not always feasible to fence, the following measures are being taken to manage them:—

(i) Round the clock surveillance and domination by patrolling the area with water crafts, both during day and night.

(ii) Three floating Border-Out-Posts (BOPs), acquired by the Border Security Force, are deployed in riverine segments for effective domination.

(iii) BOPs established on main land also keep a check on any illegal crossing from riverine areas.

Decline in industrial growth in the country

*292. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that industrial growth in the country has declined significantly in 2007 as compared to the year 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) how far the decline in industrial growth is due to the appreciation of the rupee *vis-à-vis* the US dollar; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to increase industrial growth?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The industrial growth rate, measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production, moderated to 8.7% during April-January 2007-08 as against 11.2% during the corresponding period of previous year. The sector wise growth rates are given in the table below:

Growth rate (in %)

Period	2005-06	2006-07	2006-07 (Apr-Jan)	2007-08 (Apr-Jan)
Mining	1.0	5.4	4.8	4.6
Manufacturing	9.1	12.5	12.1	9.2
Electricity	5.2	7.2	7.6	6.3
Overall Industry	8.2	11.6	11.2	8.7

Source: Central Statistical Organisation

The slowdown during April-January 2007-08 is observed, especially, in Textiles, Metals & Minerals, Machinery & Equipments and Transport Equipments. The slowdown isattributed to a combination of factors such as, rise in interest rates, rupee appreciation etc.

(d) The Government has put in place various policies to promote broad based industrial growth, which includes, *inter-alia*, delicensing of industrial capacity, liberalization of foreign trade regime to provide better access to inputs at competitive prices, rationalization and reduction in duty rates of customs and central excise, better infrastructure support, and liberal FDI regime, etc. In the Budget 2008-09, the Government has also reduced the excise duty across the board from 16% to 14% to boost the domestic demand for the manufacturing industry.

In addition, Government has also announced several measures to assist and promote export oriented industries affected by the rupee appreciation, which includes enhancement of the Duty entitlement Pass Book (DEPB); reduction in Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) premium by 10%; enhancement of the rates of duty drawback; interest subvention of pre-shipment and post-shipment credit, refund of service tax; raising the revenue ceiling for Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana etc.

Old forts in the grip of Maoists

*293. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that grand forts associated with the warrior-ruler in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, namely Rohtas Fort and Kalinjar Fort respectively, are in the grip of Maoist extremists as reported in the media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such old forts which are tourist attraction are in the grip of Maoists and neither the Union Government nor State Governments have taken any steps to get them free from the clutches of Maoists; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) According to available information, these forts are not in the grip of Maoists.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Setting up of Vocational Training Institutes for women

*294. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up Vocational Training Institutes to cater to the vocational training needs exclusively for women in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also a proposal to set up such an institute in various part of the country particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by when the said institute is likely to be set up?